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CENTER LINE
MONTANA'S HIGHWAYS

JUN 3 1974

Published bi-monthly for the employees of the Montana Department of Highways, state-wide.

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ASHTONS 2

March-April 1974

Beckert Honored by Roads and Streets Group at Bozeman Meet

Jack R. Beckert, administrator of the Montana Department of Highways Engineering Division, was named a Distinguished Colleague by the 182 engineers attending the 1974 Roads and Streets Conference at Montana State University in March.

The citation presented to Beckert at the meeting in Bozeman described him as a "dedicated highway engineer, decisive leader of men, aggressive producer, effective practitioner of economy and devoted public servant. In consideration of his benefactions for the State of Montana, the Roads and Streets Conference of 1974 confers upon him the title of Distinguished Colleague."

Beckert joined the Montana State Highway Department in 1946. In 1971, he was named acting administrator of the Engineering Division and Preconstruction Bureau. In 1972, he became administrator of the engineering division.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Beckert is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

The three-day Roads and Streets Conference is designed to give people involved in design, construction and maintenance of roads and streets a chance to gain new expertise and exchange ideas. The conference is sponsored biennially by MSU in cooperation with several private, state and federal agencies.

Beckert is the third man to win the Distinguished Colleague Award since it was established in 1970.

Driver Alert by NHTSA

A driver "alert" was issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), warning motorists of the need to keep auto windshields free of the liquid car waxes used in many automatic car-wash establishments.

The federal safety agency warned that car owners should thoroughly clean this wax film from all car window surfaces in order to avoid the possibility of a dangerous loss of visibility with the first, sudden rain storm.

Continued on Page 2

Alert—

(continued from Page 1)

Citing reports from motorists who have experienced the problem, the NHTSA points out that a wax-covered windshield usually appears exceptionally clear in bright sunlight but can become a sudden hazard, impervious to wiper action, when rain or road grime is smeared in with the coating. Since the wipers become wax-coated as well, both glass and wipers should be cleaned to insure good visibility when it is most needed.

Dr. James B. Gregory, NHTSA Administrator, said the problem may seem minor until you experience it at a time when "good visibility means survival—on a high-speed turnpike, perhaps, or on a dangerous roadway at night." Gregory said that windshields and wipers should be cleaned immediately after any wax application, pointing out that the wax film remains invisible until the driver meets road and weather conditions which suddenly demand the best possible visibility.

NHTSA said the wax used by automatic car-wash establishments is often a variety that is hard and has a high melting point. It is usually mixed with silicone oil or ingredients to make it spread evenly. Both the wax and the mix ingredients may render the windshield nearly opaque under rainy conditions or when road grime is added to the coating.

If car-wash attendants do not clean wax applications from window surfaces and wipers, motorists are advised that the job can be effectively done with most household window-cleaning products, or with common household detergents to which a small amount of alcohol may be added as a wax solvent. Vigorous rubbing may be necessary. The solution should be rinsed away when cleaning is complete.

CENTER LINE
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OF HIGHWAYS

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DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS

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BEVERLY GIBSON, EDITOR

Division Correspondents

Billings	James Young
Bozeman	Pat Letendre
Butte	Karen Briney
Glendive	Nancy Siegle
Great Falls	Ciel Tinelli
Havre	Edna Hess
Helena	Bev Gibson
Kalispell	Loren Dollan
Lewistown	Bea Knerr
Miles City	Jean Sweeney
Missoula	Clara Neely
Wolf Point	Agnes Heser

News items of interest to Highway Department employees are invited. They should be given to the correspondents listed above.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Havre

Edna Hess

Don Hartwell, engineering aide II and Peggy Doughty were married November 10, 1973. Don works with Hugh Klepzig's crew working out of Chester; however, he makes his home in Shelby.

Rodman Mitchell J. Nassett and his wife are parents of a baby girl born on January 31. She has been named Lisa Shalene.

Sam Hatty and his crew consisting of Albert Ullrich, Gordon Treftz, Gerald Stabio, Richard Lieberg, Richard McKinniss and John Yeoman are on temporary assignment near Billings. They plan to finish their staking project by April 30th.

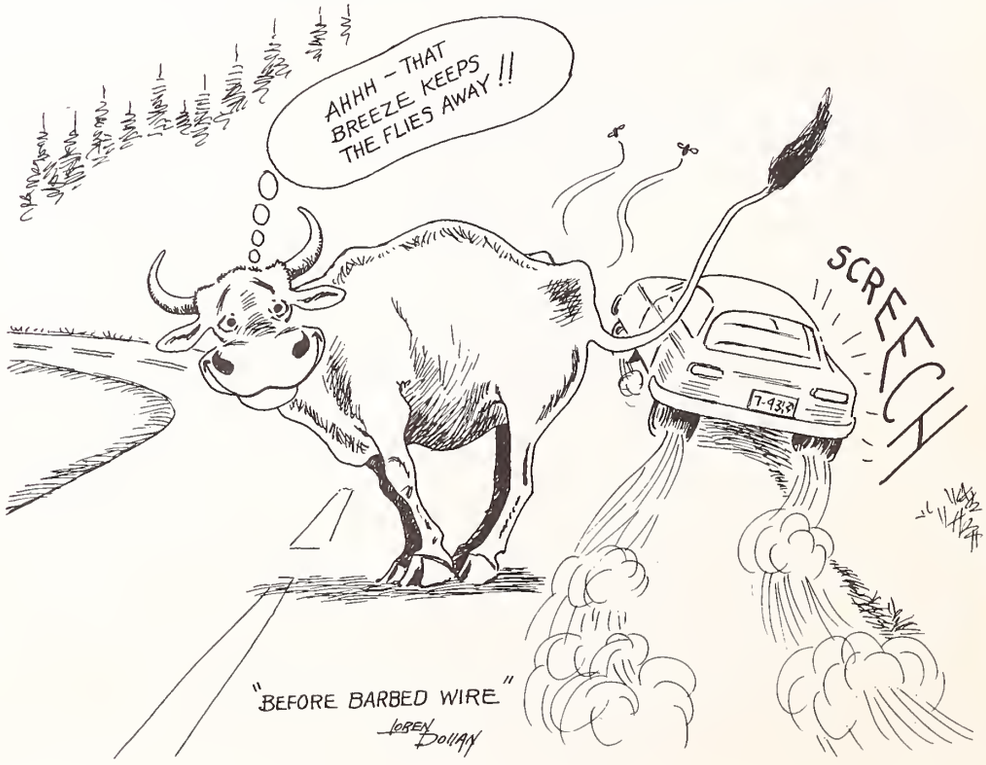
The Cut-Up Corner

THE ULTIMATE ULTIMATUM . . .

Farmer, with pail in hand, to cow: "What'll it be, Bossy? Milk or hamburger?"

JUST DON'T WANT TO BE LONELY...

Dogs have so many friends because they wag their tails, not their tongues.



Glendive

Nancy Siegle

M. Dean Knapp was transferred to the maintenance division as acting chief, field maintenance bureau to fill the vacancy caused by Jack Riley's transfer to Lewistown. Dean is learning the ropes now and is doing a good job. This picture was taken of Dean and the right of way crew before Dean's transfer was finalized. A successor to right of way has not been named as yet but Bob Scherting is acting R/W supervisor at present.

Ed Jonutis, division materials supervisor II retired April 12. Ed had been with the Department of Highways since 1947 and in the Glendive division with the soils department since 1948. During his retirement Ed plans to start a used car dealership at his home north of Glendive.

Betty Henke and husband Maynard are planning a three-week motorcycle trip for this summer. They plan to go to Glacier Park, up into Canada, to Washington to visit relatives, down to Oregon, then back to Montana through Idaho, Yellowstone Park, and then they hope to make it to Sturgis, South Dakota for the annual motorcycle rally for a few days. Then back home. It sure sounds like fun. They both have Honda 500's.

Ron Cline was given a permanent transfer to Billings in March. Also we have one crew temporarily transferred up there.

The Bandage Brigade

The annual First Aid Refresher and Defensive Driving courses were held in February and March. Shown is a picture of one of the First Aid classes.

Larry Maier, truck driver U 5 T in Terry is the proud father of a little boy born March 8. Little David has a brother, Don and sister, Denise.

Darrell Hoover, stockman, recently finished building his house. He'd been working on it since the summer of 1971 and did almost all the work himself, evenings and weekends. It is really a beauty and built with a lot of tender loving care.

The people who are going to the annual bowling tournament this year are anticipating a great time. Two teams are attending from Glendive.

"Disaster" Floor in the Glendive office during a recent first aid Course. Everybody busy. By-the-by, 18 employees have received first aid Instructor certificates thus far.

First Aid Classes Underway

During the month of March, first aid classes have been instructed in two of the divisions for 115 employees, under the direction of safety section, Clint Fulkerson, supervisor.

"We are teaching the Multi-Media first aid 8-hour course, which is recommended by OSHA to replace the old 12-hour standard first aid course," he said. These courses will be continued throughout the state during the next two months.

It was noted that due to transfers, retirements, and other reasons there was a need for qualified first aid personnel in the main highway building in Helena. These people have now been trained and have up-to-date first aid cards. Their names will be posted on each floor so all employees will know who to contact if the need should arise.

Along with this, Defensive Driving Courses are also underway for those who have not attended DDC in the past three years. Eighty-six employees have attended up through March.

Also, inspection of the main building was made with the State Fire Marshal's office and the City Fire Marshal. This is resulting in some fire protection improvements and will include posting of fire escape routes from different sections of the building and the familiarization of employees with these routes.

Nancy Siegle, clerk 4, is planning on a 3 month leave this summer. Her baby is due in August and she'll be returning sometime in October. With the coming of a family comes the need for a bigger dwelling so the Siegles have purchased a home in Glendive.

Our sympathy to Darwin Diede, truck driver U 5 T who lost his father in March. Also to Bill Bohle, maintenance supervisor in Baker whose mother passed away in late March.

David Kwasney, instrumentman, was transferred to Wolf Point on April 9.

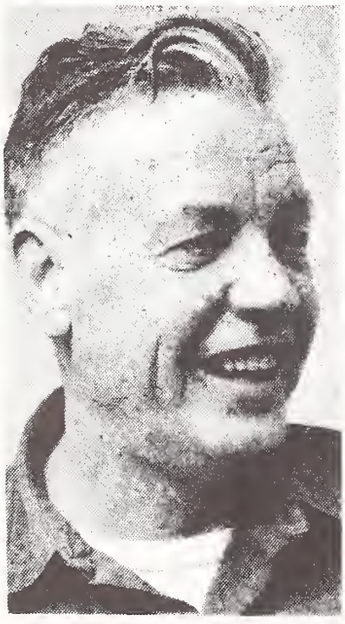
Dean Knapp (second from right, front row) shown with the R/W crew shortly before his transfer to maintenance.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Bozeman

Pat Letendre

Despite the snow storm on the first day of spring, the fever of the season has collided headon with Bozeman highway personnel. That may be the most startling news in this whole column since fortunately-or unfortunately-or whatever-we have had no streakers to stir us up; the majority of us are too worn out from winter to create any excitement whatsoever; and, if that isn't enough, the artcoretive . . . er, coretartive . . . I mean, retroactive (see what that word does to us?) rumors are rampant again. Wish that new Form 68 (payroll) would go into production. That's the one with 3 sheets, the third sheet is blank in the money column and is filed away until the next retroactive payroll rush is on.



J.W. Bailey

J.W. (Bill) Bailey, 32 year employee of the department, retired on February 19. During his employment, Bill rose from a truck driver to maintenance forman. A coffee hour was held in the division office on his last day of employment with many of his long-time associates dropping in to wish him well. A money order and a completed photo album—a history in pics of Bill's highway days—were presented to him by Richard L. Miller.

Ronda Planichek and two companions terrorized Amtrak a couple of weeks ago when they journeyed to Seattle. The conductor (the only sober one on the train) was relieved to hear they were returning by air. After this auspicious beginning, the five days sight-seeing in Seattle were an enjoyable, though anti-climatic, finale to spring break. Meanwhile, back at the office, Pat Letendre and Harold Roby were celebrating St. Pat's day . . . she with two Irish garters and a kelly green tiara and he with an orange jacket and matching fez!! Think how happy the conductor must be that they did not accompany Ronda. And, finally, Jim McCormick, serviceman, used the same green weekend to visit old friends and meet some new ones in San Francisco. It is now back to the books (and motor pool) for Jim, radio teletype, etc. for Ronda and Harold and Pat are just lying in wait for the next official holiday.

Ron Hoyem, manager, field project unit, received a pin honoring 20 years service with the department.

Tough Luck Department: Bill Steele, working shop foreman, missed out on the $100 prize he was eligible for, which is given away by a local grocery store, because he was at work making money to buy groceries from the store and missed the program.

Roger Blossom and gang are all smiles now that they have their own office. The furnishings are sparse, so Roger has placed some of his charming animal paintings around the room. The gallery-like effect keeps the visitors on their feet gazing at the paintings and they are slow to realize there aren't any chairs.

Stanely E. Jensen (Swede) was promoted to supervisor field maintenance section at Bozeman. That means, of course, that he shares the operation with Jim Brooks. Who gets Bozeman Hill, fellows?

On the mend list is Betty Schmitt, wife of our stockman Del, who injured her arm while on a snowmobile outing at West Yellowstone.

Lisa Bogar, daughter of Wilma (clerk I) and Gary, broke her arm while skiing at Bridger Bowl. Carol Fristo, wife of instrumentman Jim, had stomach surgery and is now doing just dandy.

Though we are beginning to think we must scare away traffic engineers, we're happy to welcome Gary Gilmore to this position—just in time for all the new signs.

THANK YOU!

Sula Woman's Club
Sula, Montana 59871
January 19, 1974

Montana State Highway Department
Helena, Montana

Dear Sir:

Sula Woman's Club is pleased with the fine job that Mr. Robert Mendenhall and his highway maintenance crew at Sula are doing on the portion of Highway 93 in our area.

Our children ride the school bus more than 20 miles to Darby to school and well sanded and plowed roads are necessary for the safety of the bus as well as other vehicles.

We believe that our portion of Highway 93 is being well maintained this winter and we wish to express our thanks to your department but especially to Mr. Mendenhall and his crew.

VERY MUCH!

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Jane Lord
Secretary
Sula Woman's Club

WITH THE DIVISIONS

The Mr. and Mrs. ranks are swelling daily in this division. Jim Phelps, rodman at Big Timber, took the big step and married Linda Haff this winter. The honeymoon at Big Sky turned a wee bit sour as Jim broke his arm while skiing. Pam Pierce, daughter of Al Pierce, sectionman at Carbella, wed Bob Karnes and they are now residing on a ranch at Forsyth. That only leaves four kids at home with Al and Gloria.

Another offspring to tie the knot, Mike Gates, son of Dorothy and Percy Gates, mechanic in the shop, wed Debbie Witzel in January. And, Lynda Strickler, daughter of Meta and Floyd Strickler, wed Timothy Gryme of Conrad. In the near future, Bobbie Lou Ricketts, daughter of Nellie and Bob, manager-field project unit, will marry Jim Williams of Belgrade. Our best wishes to you all.

Norma and Rich Saltzman, manager-field project unit, are beating the heat and humidity by visiting Oklahoma for two weeks in March.

Also in the traveling vein, Christine Roby is now on her way to Mexico City (University of Mexico) to study Mexican culture and spruce up her Spanish. This, combined with her year in France firming up her French will ably qualify Miss R. for a position as a foreign language instructor. Chris is the daughter of Jeanne and Harold Roby.

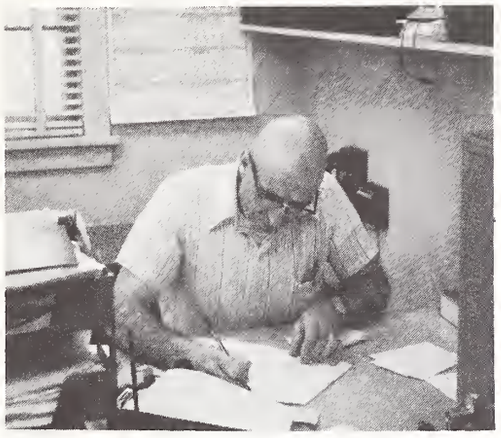
Add Minny Walker to the "I Quit" gang—but his maintenance duties are keeping his waistline trimmed down.

Swede Jensen, supervisor, field maintenance section, spent a week going to school recently. He is now an expert on noxious weeds and pesticides—that is, if he passed the test.

Wolf Point

Agnes Heser

Lester Wiebe, maintenanceman in the Malta section, was promoted to maintenance supervisor to replace Arthur Harris after his retirement in December. Congratulations, Lester. David Martin filled Wiebe's place as maintenanceman on February 19. He and his wife moved here from Great Falls. We would all like to welcome him to the gang.



Ed Reiser

Eddy Reiser, son of Freda and Ed, division office engineer, recently made the rank of Eagle Scout. Congrats, Eddy. We must assume the Eagle rank has something to do with the bald eagle and father Ed got carried away with his justified pride in his son . . . is that right, Ed?

Alice and Allan Allsop, mechanic in the shop, are proud parents of new baby boy, Barry Dean. He joins Sherry and Mike . . . congratulations, Allsops. Allan also received his longevity certificate recognizing 15 years of service.

Doug Swanson, our E.I.T. whom we have grown quite fond of, is leaving the fold for bigger and better things at Data Processing. We won't miss him quite as much as will roommate Reece Burns, rodman at Big Timber, who states he has grown accustomed to cooking with the electronic oven which Doug has on loan from his parents.

John Colgan, maintenance foreman, was in the hospital the end of January with a heart attack. John was in to see us and reports that he is doing fine and hopes to be back to work soon. We all miss him around the office and wish him a speedy recovery.

Gerald Hentges, combination man, was in the hospital and had surgery the end of February. Reports he is doing fine and should be back to work around the first part of April. All of us wish him a speedy recovery.

Murrel Braaten

Murrel E. Braaten, division materials supervisor, resigned March 15, from the Department after 17 years of service. He has increased his ranching interests and felt both would be too much. A coffee party was held in honor of him on this date. All of us will miss him around the office and would like to wish him lots of luck in the future.

Leroy Anderson

Leroy E. Anderson has been selected to fill the division materials supervisor position after Murrel's resigning. Leroy worked in the Billings division from 1953 to 1960 and then transferred to Wolf Point, where he has been employed on Dewey's crew as instrumentman. We would all like to congratulate Leroy with his new position and wish him lots of luck. He has already commented on the job with, "I'm my own boss now."

Longevity pins were given to Albert Bonner for 15 years of service, and to Everett Redstone,

(continued on Page 6)

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Wolf Point . . .

(continued from Page 5)

Lars Mork and Walter Wiers for 20 years of service.

All of the highway employees would like to extend their sympathy to the Francis Delaney family in the death of Shirley's father, Herman Forbreyd.

Bob Hanson, Nick Boysun, Leroy Anderson and Dean Borgen bowled in the City Tournaments in Wolf Point the first part of March. Their team took third place and managed to win $45. Bob Hanson bowled in singles and won $7.

Gunwald Brenden's son, John was home on leave from the Army for a few days from Fort Gordon, Georgia where he is stationed.

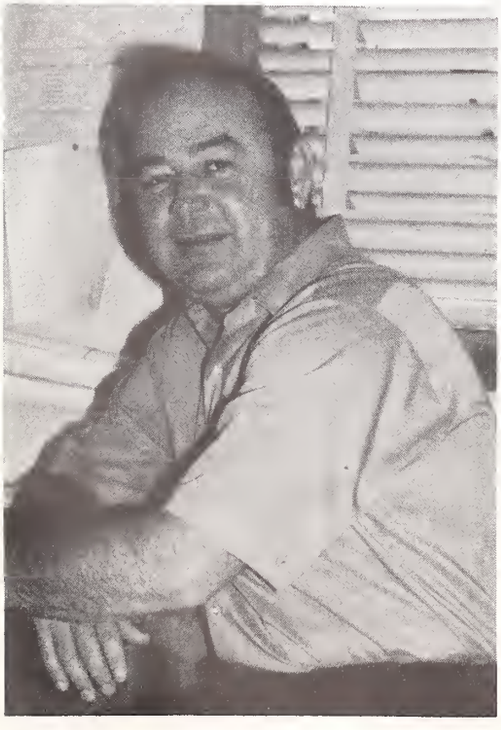
Billings

James Young

Garth Hougaard presented six beautiful white, yellow, and maroon nome-grown orchids to each of the Billings office ladies on March 13. Garth said he had waited six long years for this special plant to bloom.

Helen Hastings and Clarence Walth donated blood for an emergency operation at a local Billings hospital in February.

At the annual Credit Union meeting in March the following members were elected for the ensuing year: Board of Directors: Garth Hougaard, president; Bill Makin, 1st vice president; Emmett Colley, 2nd vice president; George Haider, secretary-treasurer; Albert Reather, John Neudick, and Clifford Dunn, members. Credit Committee: Peter Messer, president; Ted Weiss, loan officer; Sharon Graham, secretary. Supervisory Committee: (appointed by board): Albert Reather, Kenneth Hartman, and Richard Shaw.



Dale Harcharik

Right of way employee John Michunovich received a 10 year service award and Dale Harcharik, also of right-of-way, received a 25 year service award.

Bob Marvin

Dan White, division materials supervisor II, announced that an Asphalt Training Conference was held at the Billings public library. Key personnel from each oiling project scheduled for this summer attended. Planning was accomplished by Billings lab personnel in cooperation with Tri State Equipment Company officials. Factory representatives from Blaw Knox showed slides on adjustments and operation of pavers. A representative from RayGo Roller Company explained the vital workings and adjustments on vibratory rollers.

Division personnel wish to extend sincere words of sympathy to Jack Liedle and family on the death of his father.

Three survey crews have been transferred to Billings for temporary assignments to help Interstate staking and secondary location survey work. Two crews from Glendive include the following personnel: Richard R. Casey, instrumentman; Ralph F. Lee, rodman; Rickey D. Miller, rodman; Darold D. Reinhart, rodman; and Leon P. Eide, engineering aide II.

John Michunovich

Assisting Robert Ewing, manager-field project unit II on the Hardin-Sarpy Secondary location survey are: Fred L. Rilla, instrumentman; Kenneth P. Baisch, rodman; Larry R. Wolf, rodman; Gary Nentwig, rodman; Gary L. Schara, rodman; and Ronald L. Cline, rodman.

One crew from Havre has been assigned to the Pompeys Pillar Interstate project: Samuel Hatly, manager-field project unit II; Al Ulbrich, instrumentman; Gerry Stabio, instrumentman; Gordon Trefts, instrumentman; John Yeoman, rodman; Rick Lieberg, rodman; and Richard McKinniss, rodman. Sam Hatly and Richard Casey and crews are working with C.O. Gransberg, field project unit II on Interstate 94.

Jack Liedle and his wife flew to West Point to visit their son, who is enrolled at the Military Academy.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Moots, instrumentman at Hardin, are parents of twins, a boy and a girl. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bernhardt, rodman at Billings have a new daughter. Gym Rawlins, right-of-way steno is a grandmother. Her son, Joel and his wife are the parents of an 8 lb. 5 oz. son, Joseph H., Jr.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Long overdue compliments are extended to former maintenance foreman Curtis McBride of Columbus. Curtis, a dedicated state employee, always had his equipment ready for the day's work. At the first sign of snow, his sanders and snow plows were ready to move and were always first to be out on the road to keep the highway open for the traveling public.

Mr. McBride retired December 29, 1972 after completing 39 years of service for the Department of Highways and is living in Columbus. Curtis McBride, Ray Webb, and Jim Roan were commended by former Highway Engineer Lewis M. Chittim for the assistance they gave Miss Susan Hagler, former Highway Hostess, when she lay in her wrecked car for nearly 18 hours unnoticed by other drivers.

Ray Webb has been promoted to fill McBride's position as maintenance foreman.

New Traffic Engineer

Welcome to Bob R. Marvin, traffic engineer. Bob is married to Debra Marvin. They have a one-year-old daughter, Heather. Marvin graduated from Butte high school and Montana State and has been with the highway department for the past three years, one year as an E.I.T. with Mike Zahn in Billings, and two years with Ed Miller, planning and research, Helena. He has returned from a three week Traffic Institute Seminar at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Phil Bell, former highway employee with the Billings lab, will open his own photography studio in Billings. Phil has been with the Billings Gazette for the past several years.

Nancy Sackett, steno and radio operator for the Billings highway patrol will retire May 1. Nancy is well known in and around the state and has been in Billings for the past 17 years with the highway patrol. She will devote her time to homemaking and some special hobbies she plans to start.

James Rangitsch, bridge inspector, 15 year service award; Ron Kinsey, instrumentman, 10 year service award; and Raleigh Newell, engineering aide II, 5 year service award. Congratulations to them. Keep up the good work fellas.

Great Falls

Ciel Tinelli

A. Buskirk, maintenanceman at Neihart, gets an awful lot of ribbing about his Santa Claus beard, but he takes it with a grin and here proudly shows off his new FWD which even has his own nameplate on the dash—

Man and machine, shown right, need precious little by way of pix caption other than to muse about their obvious capability to take care of almost anything nature can conjure.

"Arling's Darling." Buzz, as he is known to one and all, is one of the top men at "Showdown," the ski resort at Neihart and was recently televised in a sports film that was aired on the Johnny Carson Tonight Show. He kept that Kings Hill road in the best of shape all winter long with his new FWD and then just for relaxation he has a hobby of building furniture, cutting glass bottles, overhauling machinery and you name it. He is the father of three, husband of Tora Buskirk, who I'm sure will never have to worry about what Buzz will do in his spare time when he retires.

Gordy Booth, instrumentman, was the lucky winner of a hind quarter of beef at a local market's anniversary drawing, which is almost like winning a gold nugget.

Bob Trunkle, maintenanceman at Belt, has been so-o-o-o busy working on his house. He added a complete new kitchen, plans on starting on the rest of it, but informs me it may be a 20-year project.

Ken Anderson is teaching an adult education class in radio electronics at Washington school three nights a week.

We have a new maintenanceman at Augusta by the name of John R. Fusaro. He is originally from Rhode Island, was in the Air Force, fell in love with a Montana girl, (Elva from Augusta,) so decided that Montana was the place for him. He has two children in high school and three in grade school, he loves to golf and bowl and is an ex-barber and still barbers every Tuesday night. We welcome him to our clan.

George Larson, maintenanceman at Rogers Pass, ripped the cartilage in his knee, so he spent a week in the hospital getting it repaired. He's only been back at work three days and is already planning his next vacation.

George Davis, manager field project was also hospitalized for several weeks in the surgical ward and at the present report was doing fine. Giving the nurses a bad time was just his cup of tea, maybe better than picking on us poor office gals.

Bud Williams, our painter, is still in the hospital with a silly old ulcer and Myron Romberg spent a week or so at St. Peters in Helena with the flu. Those ailing at home with different types of viruses were Ray Wiley, Joe Rege, Sammy Gustovich and Don Cooper.

(continued on Page 8)

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Great Falls . . .

(continued from Page 7)

We extend our sympathies to Earl and Elwood Richards whose father passed away the last of January and to Lois and Don Cooper and Hazel and Gordon Booth. Lois's and Hazel's mothers died during the month of march.

Helena-Hdq.

Bev Gibson

Ruth Powell, daughter of Jim Powell, contract plans, has been selected as a delegate to Girls State June 8-13 at Carroll College. Ruth is active in student council, a member of "Saturday's Children" select chorus, and secretary of the Capital Chorus. Her hobbies include snow skiing, swimming and reading.

Dick Ronan, internal review, caught a 9 ½ lb. loch laven trout out of Canyon Ferry lake while ice fishing early in March. Dick said he believes this trout is the largest ever caught through the ice in this area. It took 30 minutes to land the big fish, with the assistance of sons Bob and Rick, Rick's wife, Lynda, and a grandson.

No, it wasn't a bomb scare. But there was smoke coming out of the hot air ducts on the first floor of the headquarters building March 18th, and those were firemen looking in all the corners. It turned out the night cleaning crew was alert and sounded the alarm, which turned out to be a motor burned out in the air conditioner unit in the basement.

Gene Rice, materials lab, ran unopposed and was re-elected to the only expiring term in the Helena high school district elections. Jim Powell, contract plans, was reelected to the board of trustees of school district #2. Jim Simpson, preconstruction, was re-elected to the board of elementary school district #9, East Helena.

Patti Eddlemon, daughter of Bea Eddlemon, secretary to the director, was selected to Grand Choir of the Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly of Montana. Patti will attend the event in June.

Jan Bartlett, Clerk II in Internal Review, has been transferred to Missoula as R/W Office Coordinator I. Jan took up her new duties April 1.

Diane Sweetser, Helena high

Westvelt - Fox

school senior, was a finalist in the Miss Helena contest April 6. Vivacious Diane modeled some smashing outfits and presented a fetching dance routine.

Montana National Guard Capt. Andrew R. Sangray was named as director of the Selective Service System in Montana. He is the son of Andy Sangray, lab tech III in photo, and is also a former highway department employee. He was appointed by Governor Thomas Judge.

Several department employees performed as singers and dancers in the St. Peter's Hospital "Red Stocking Follies" benefit show March 29-30. Cavorting in the frolicsome vaudeville numbers were Bucky Harris, Bea Eddlemon, Tom Peake, Colleen Vetsch. Don Williams, recently retired statistical supervisor at Planning and Research, was general chairman for the production which was well-attended.

Terri Buzzas, University of Montana freshman, spent a week in Texas as a member of Angel Flight, women's honor society for the AROTC. Terri is the daughter of Florence Buzzas, secretary to Jack Beckert.

Ace Kindrick, retired from the highway sign shop, is keeping busy in his retirement, bartending at the Nite Owl on Sundays, and keeping track of his beloved American Legion baseball teams. Ace was known as "Mr. Highway Sign Shop"

Surprise from 1919

Jean Pillen, construction, dug into the family scrapbook when the sad news about Chet Huntley's death was announced. She found a snapshot taken in Saco circa 1919 featuring a typical group of grade school youngsters, who were not so typical at all, since they included Jean's mother, Carrie Franklin Valez, (second from left, back row), her aunt, Florence Franklin Kent, (second from right, middle row), and Chet Huntley, (second from left, front row.)

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Stan Sedgwick

in his many years with the department, having made most of the original historical markers designed by Bob Fletcher.

Jay Randall, road design, has earned his Professional Engineer rating after some years of home study, and was promoted to designer III. Mike Langenfus passed his EIT examination and has been promoted to Designer I.

Robert Livesay, EIT in bridge section, has been appointed acting traffic engineer for the City of Great Falls. He had been employed by the DOH since January 1972. He is also an interceptor pilot with the Montana Air National Guard on a part time basis.

Robert E. Westvelt, materials supervisor, retired February 1974 after 10 years with the department. Bob came to work in April 1947 as a laboratory technician. He was born in Forest Grove, Mt. and attended schools in Forest Grove and Lewistown, graduating from Fergus County high school. He worked for the Arro Refinery in Lewistown about 12 years, enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 as a private and was discharged as a captain in July 1946.

Bob left the department in 1949 to work for the Big West Oil Co. in Kevin as assistant general superintendent. He was reemployed by the department in August 1966.

A party was held in the lab on February 27 where he was presented with a gift. Present for the occasion were Bill Ashton, John Fred, Earl Hill, Harry Morley and L.H. Richter, all recent retirees. The Westvelts will move to Hamilton.

Stanley Sedgwick retired in April after working for the highway department for 26 years. He started in the Lewistown division in 1948, working under Jack McGee, division engineer, then served in various capacities in Great Falls, Glendive, Wolf Point and Butte. He came into the contract plans unit in April, 1970 from the Butte division, where he worked as an instrumentman. Cake and coffee were served in the contract plans office where he was presented with a gift and card from his many friends in the department. Also, Stan and his wife, Marie were guests of honor at a cocktail party and dinner.

Missoula

Clara Neely

There has been a marked increase in activities in the Missoula division with the advent of spring. First on the list was a course in defensive driving. There will no doubt be a terrific increase in travel through these parts because of Expo '74 in Spokane, and we do want our fellows to be on the alert for all sorts of hazards.

Patching is on in earnest. We have crews from Missoula, Alberton, Evaro, Plains, Ravalli, Saltese, and Superior engaged in filling holes both east and west of St. Regis. Also have an operator from Bozeman manning the hot plant, which was borrowed from Bozeman for use at St. Regis. Lewistown and Great Falls helped us during the winter months with our snow removal operations—providing personnel and equipment, which were sorely needed. Thanks to all of you for the splendid cooperation.

Jan Bartlett has transferred from Internal Review in Helena headquarters to the Missoula right-of-way office. She has been appointed coordinator, replacing Mike Panisco.

Dale Mikkelson moved from the motor pool to the main office to replace Pat Zaharko, who has resigned.

Robert Lajoie has completed 10 years of service; Verdun France, 15; H.J. Smith, 20; and Clarence G. Todd, 25 years.

Al Haacke and H.J. Smith, who were both recently hospitalized, are on the mend and back in the groove. Our former parts runner, Jim Murphey, is hospitalized as a result of some rare blood disease. We regret that it was necessary for him to resign because of this condition, and sincerely hope that he will soon overcome it. Bob Nicely is now doing the parts purchasing.

I haven't give up hope of being able to announce the engagements of Del Braun and Mike Jovanovich, two of our most eligible bachelors, but as of this writing both deny that there are any such plans in the offing.

Roadside Obstacles Being Surveyed

A program for a survey to identify the roadside obstacles on the primary, secondary, and urban highway systems in the state has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration, according to Jack Beckert, administrator of the engineering division of the Montana Department of Highways.

The survey will include an over-the-road inspection of the secondary and urban routes. The work of inventorying roadside obstacles on the primary system will be done from the Department's photographic log of these roadways, Beckert said.

The ultimate goal of this program is the elimination of such hazards through future maintenance and construction projects. Roadside obstacles include bridge abutments, headwalls on culverts, non-breakway signs, trees, and utility poles. Obstacles within 30 feet of the edge of the traveled way will be relocated, removed, or protected.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Kalispell

Loren Dollan

With the spring season some sad happenings have occurred in the Kalispell division. A tragic snowmobile accident took the life of Bill Sands, maintenance supervisor at Summit. Bill worked many years in the Nyack-Summit area keeping U.S. #2 open and in safe condition for the traveling public. The Summit section is one of the areas in Montana which suffers the severest of winter conditions. Bill, an avid outdoorsman, will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Roger McKenzie for the loss of their daughter.

Willard Stockwell's wife, Gisela has been ill for a period of time and is now at the University Hospital in Seattle for further treatment. All of us wish her a speedy recovery.

Don Decker's wife, Eva, underwent back surgery and is recovering at home now.

The stork hasn't been idle around the division. The following deliveries were made: A girl, Heidi Rae to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Hansen; a boy, Matthew to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thomas; and a girl, Tonya Rae to Mr. and Mrs. Rich Sipe.

Al Lang, one of the division's more dedicated fisherman, returned from Lone Pine Reservoir recently with a 22 lb. 43 inch Northern Pike. Now that is something to brag about.

Dennis Foy, our draftsman, has sworn off basketball for awhile. He was participating in a game recently, twisted his foot which in turn tore some ligaments. The results were an operation, a short stay in the hospital and several weeks in a cast. Forget basketball and go back to skiing, Dennis.

Al Rierson, Highway Patrol Sergeant, is to retire April 8 after many dedicated years in promoting highway safety and law enforcement.

Faye Strong, clerk-typist, was married March 23 to Bob Beller, maintenanceman on the Summit Section. Lots of luck to both of them.

Marshall Beatty, maintenance foreman, can now claim attendance at an institution of higher learning. He attended a weed control school in Bozeman. (On a scholarship?)

Well, by the looks of the weather outside, the days of the snowmobilers and skiers are numbered and things are looking up for the golfers, campers and fisherman (open water variety).

Of interest to this division was the bill passed by the legislature concerning livestock on the highway right of way. This new law will mean quite a sizable fencing project between Kalispell and Libby. Cattle on the highway in this area has been a major safety hazard for a number of years.

Butte

Karen Briney

The following men have been commended for their devoted service to the Department: Robert Conway, Joseph Wallace, Raymond Eustice, James Anderson, Robert Evans, Gary Dupuis, Robert Fischer, Leonard Olson, and Clare Sands, all 10 years; John Hren, 15 years; James Vincent and Jerry Simons, 20 years; and Gaylord Huckins, 25 years. Keep up the good work, fellas!

'Tis the season to be skinny, at least that's the way is seems in the Butte office. Good luck to all who are watching their waistlines.

We are glad to report that Mickey Doherty, maintenance supervisor and Ray O'Neill, maintenanceman II, are back to work after being on the sick list. It was said that they gave the nurses such a bad time, they were asked to leave the hospital. Also recovering from the flu, and needless to say he had a rough time of it, is John McBride, son of Bill McBride, maintenanceman V.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fischer are the proud parents of a 6 lb. 14 oz. boy, John Peter, born to them on February 22. John was welcomed home by two sisters, Belinda, 10, and Rolene, 6. Bob is the division utilities agent in the Butte construction section.

We would like to congratulate John Mortenson on his new job—he will fill the shoes of a right-of-way agent. Good luck, John!

Right-of-way was happy to welcome Vin Downing to its circle. Vin is office coordinator now. He was formerly in the lab.

Another new personality in right-of-way is Clarence DeDycker. Clarence is an agent and is real easy to get along with. We wish him much success!

R/W agent Pat Kane made a real buy the other day . . . ask him about the new white Chevrolet he is driving to work these days. He is quite happy! This is a real classy model!

Mitchell Kelly, son of right-of-way agent Tom Kelly, has been awarded a scholarship from the Frank Harvey Cook Scholarship fund. Set up to educate Montana students with high scholastic achievements, this will provide for four years at St. Paul's prep school in Concord, N.H., and upon completion of this course, undergraduate study at the college or university of Mitchell's choice.

The sympathy of the Department is extended to Tom E. Kelly in the loss of his father late in March. Mr. Kelly was a very active citizen and will be missed by many friends and associates.

It looks like wedding bells for Lorraine Symons—we have seen her wearing a beautiful diamond ring lately. Will be waiting to hear more on this.

Karen Markovich, the cute little gal in the communications room, changed her name on January 25th. She and Larry Briney were married in St. Ann's Church in a candlelight ceremony. All bridesmaids were gorgeous in blue gowns. Karen and Larry are very happy and are now looking forward to moving into their brand new mobile home.

It was a new baby girl for Frank and Rosemary Hughes, in Houston, Texas March 30. The proud grandmother is Mary Hughes of the Butte office. Mary will fly down for the christening of her first grandchild.

New faces! Speaking of new faces, we would like to welcome Gary Gilmore, traffic engineer I to the department, and also to congratulate him on his promotion.

If you feel dog tired in the evening, it might be from growling all day.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Miles City

Jean Sweeney

Congratulations to Marcus and Marsha Zavala of Forsyth on the birth of a son March 1, in a Miles City Hospital. The baby has been named Jamie and joins a brother and two sisters. Marcus is engineering aide II on Ray Garland's crew that was recently transferred to Miles City from Forsyth.

Delmer F. Borer, manager, field project unit II and crew have been transferred to Broadus to work on two projects in the Broadus vicinity. Other members of the crew transferred are: Ray Potter, instrumentman (office); Duane J. Strohmayer, instrumentman (field); Walter Swanson, rodman; Donald Fiske, rodman; Don Hafla and Dave Macioroski, both engineering aides II.

Another crew transferred—Ray Garland, manager-field project unit II and crew: Ed Dorothy, instrumentman; Steve Stephenson, instrumentman; Tim Irion, rodman and Marcus Zavala, engineering aide II have transferred to Miles City from Forsyth where they had been headquartered while they had been working on the Rosebud County Line-East project.

The funeral at Rosebud for the two Rosebud High School students whose tragic deaths took place when their car collided with a Burlington-Northern train, was attended by maintenance foreman Robert Ray Lamb and maintenancemen Don Niedge and Duane Ingle. Don Niedge was related to Gary Morton, 17, the boy who was killed. The whole community closed everything in town including schools, and everyone attended the funerals for the two popular high school students. The girl killed was 16-year old Gwenn Montgomery who was a junior and an A-squad cheerleader. Gary was a senior and an honor student as well as an outstanding athlete both in basketball and football.

Sympathy is extended to Walter D. Dane, manager-field project unit II on the death of his father, Fred D. Dane, who passed away at the age of 96 years of age. Mr. Dane lived a very interesting and diversified life. From 1903 to 1904 he was a licensed mortician and furniture store owner, and later owned a vaudeville theater in Minnesota. In 1910 he worked for the Denver Post and in 1913 came to Montana. He homesteaded on the North Sunday Creek where he farmed for many years. He married Leona Goodell November 26, 1916 in Miles City and later worked for the Milwaukee Railroad for many years.

We think Ray Potter, instrumentman in the Miles City division has some real coaching ability. Both teams coached by Ray, including the 5th and 6th grades and the junior high 7th and 8th grades, went into the finals of the 1974 Miles City Basketball Championship in the 5th and 6th grades and junior high categories and placed second in some really tough competition. The 5th and 6th grade basketball program in Miles City, under the direction of Bob Nees, athletic program director for Miles City, is considered by far the best in the state. Many of our division highway employees are coaching the 5th and 6th grades in basketball. They include: Arthur D. Anderson, division office engineer I; Eugene M. Bankey, Donald Stewart, Duane Strohmayer (all instrumentmen); Bruce Jackman, lab tech IV; Dennis Blunt, maintenanceman 3; Ralph Kraze, shop foreman and Ray Potter. These fellows devote much of their evenings to coaching the grade school boys in basketball. Bruce Jackman was commissioner for the 5th and 6th grade basketball for the past three years and they called him Mr. Commissioner. Jerry Branum, bridge inspector and Don Stewart, instrumentman, coach 7th and 8th grade teams in Junior High.

The Forsyth VFW Post No. 1849 and Auxiliary sponsored a bingo party for the patients at the V.A. Hospital in Miles City recently. Among those assisting with the party were Mr. and Mrs. June Clark of Forsyth. June is Post Commander and also maintenance superivisor I, headquartered in Forsyth.

Sympathy is extended to Joe Schneidt, instrumentman in the loss of his mother, Mrs. Josephine Schneidt, who passed away in a Miles City hospital January 24, after a long illness.

Sympathy is extended to Larry Nelson, lab tech IV, in the passing of his father, Gerhart J. Nelson on March 2.

Also our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kalness in the passing of her sister, Mrs. Laura Sherman, who suffered a heart attack February 16.

Kenneth G. Rapp, P.E., supervisor-division construction section, attended the Montana Roads and Streets Conference March 11-13 at Montana State University in Bozeman. The first two days were the conference and banquet, and the third day was sponsored by the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, Department of Intergovernmental Relations, State of Montana.

Donald L. Kalness, maintenance foreman, attended the Weed Control Seminar March 18-22 at MSU in Bozeman.

Lewistown

Bea Knerr

Four men have received service awards. They are Oscar (Leo) Myers, Walter Reiche and Kearney Holst of Lewistown and Lewis Nelson of Grass Range.

Two others who are in the Lewistown division of the department, Walter Ringer of White Sulphur Springs and Donald Kosbab of Ryegate, also received awards.

Meyers and Reiche received sapphire lapel pins and certificates of appreciation for 25 years of service with the department. Holst received a service pin and certificate of appreciation for 10 years of service.

Myers is employed as a motor patrol operator, Rieche as a maintenance truck driver, and Holst as a maintenanceman.

Nelson received a service pin and certificate of appreciation for 20 years of service with the department. He is employed as a supervisor-field maintenance section, in Grass Range area of the Lewistown division.

Ringer, a field maintenance supervisor, and Kosbab, a maintenance truck driver, received service pins and certificates for 20 and 10 years respectively.

SEE THE MONTANA BOOTH AT

EXPO '74!

AASHTO AWARDS PRESENTED

AASHTO AWARDS—Twenty-five-year pins and certificates were presented in February to nine Department of Highway employees for service to the American Association of State Highway Officals. They are, left to right, Paul E. Poirier, Francis W. Toombs, Gene F. Pfeiffer, Edward C. Miller, Howard T. Buswell, Clarence J. Farry, and Stephen F. Weber. Not pictured are John F. VanVynck and Jack R. Beckert.

Lower Speeds = Safety

Lowered highway speed limits, brought on by the energy shortage, are having a beneficial effect on highway safety. The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has released early estimates which show that those States which have lowered their highway speed limits are experiencing a substantial drop in highway fatalities.

Dr. James B. Gregory, the NHTSA Administrator, said an analysis of figures from the 16 States which had reduced highway speed limits during November shows a drop in fatalities of 15 to 20 percent below November of 1972. Dr. Gregory attributes most of the reduction to enforced lower speed limits. The remaining 34 States which did not lower speed limits in November showed a two percent drop in fatalities, part of which may be attributed to reduced automobile travel and to motorists who lowered their driving speeds voluntarily.

American Indians are being killed and injured in highway accidents possibly more than four times faster than other U.S. citizens . . . a problem the Congress and the Department of Transportation have earmarked for special attention.

MINI-COMPUTER MAY AID HEART PATIENTS

Two Montana State University electrical engineering students say a mini-computer project that started out as a required course may develop into a new form of treating heart-attack victims.

MSU says large hospitals have used computers for years to record and monitor the heart abnormalities and beats of patients. The computers cost in the neighborhood of $150,000.

But a year ago, the two MSU students began working on a mini-computer to monitor heart action. They say they now have developed an $11,000 computer that they believe small hospitals should be able to afford.

"We had to do a project with mini-computers for a course," says Don Jones of Billings. He says he and Jerry A. Stolle of Lewistown wanted to do something useful and decided to see if mini-computers could be used to analyze electrocardiograms (EKGs).

Stolle is the son of Frank Stolle, mechanic in the Lewistown division.

Jones says the hardest part of the project involved programming the mini-computer to tell the difference between the heart's smaller abnormalities, of which there are millions, and the critical ones.

Their mini-computer now beeps when a serious abnormality or serious change in heart beat occurs.

The two are now tape-recording EKGs of patients at a Bozeman hospital. They say they hope to have their computer system ready for hospital testing by the summer.

A professor of electrical engineering at MSU said the design of the mini-computer is "a very remarkable accomplishment for undergraduate students." Stolle, a senior when the project started, and Jones, who is now a senior, had no outside funding help in the project.

Professors in the electrical engineering department were impressed enough that Stolle and Jones got a research grant last month to help finish up the project.